

Dear Neighbor,

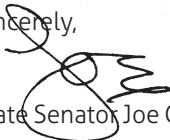
The 2010 Legislative Session is already upon us. I will continue to fight for expanded insurance coverage and work to refine recently passed legislation so as to make our laws more inclusive. My agenda includes:

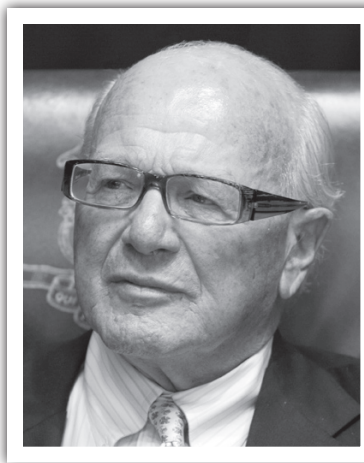
- **Oncology co-pay parity:** Allow oral chemotherapies to be covered at the same level as intravenous therapies. As it now stands, the out-of-pocket costs of oral medications are prohibitive for the patient.
- **COBRA:** Modify Connecticut's law so as to allow certain residents to take advantage of the recently enacted federal extension and keep their health insurance.
- **Autism:** Refine our autism coverage law so as to allow certain specialists to be covered.
- **School-Age Children:** Ensure all children entering school have access to health insurance.

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas and opinions on any matter of importance to you. You may reach me at **Crisco@senatedems.ct.gov** or by phone at **1-800-842-1420**.

I look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely,


State Senator Joe Crisco



State Senator **JOE CRISCO**

Legislative Office Building, Room 2800
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

Capitol: 1-800-842-1420

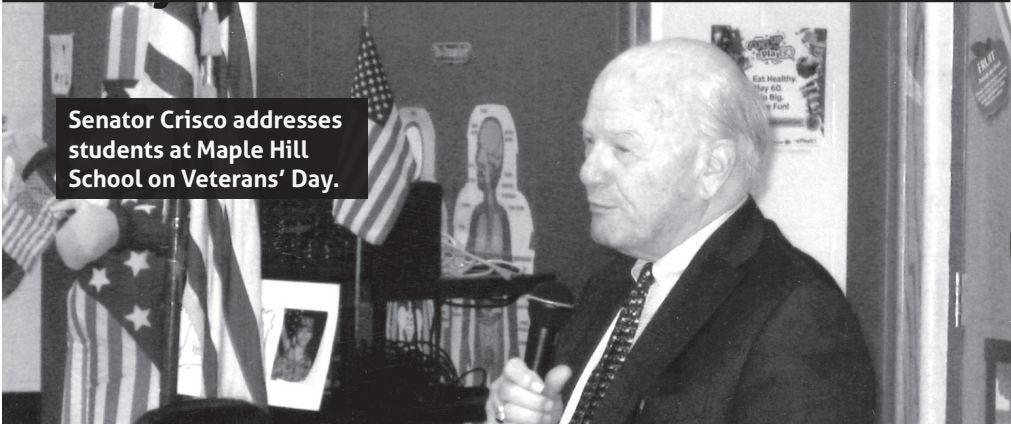
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From your State Senator Joe Crisco



Senator Crisco addresses students at Maple Hill School on Veterans' Day.

HEALTH CARE ISSUES UPDATE

Building upon my legislative achievements regarding the early detection of breast cancer:

Mammograms: No Change in Current Practice Recommended

I worked with my colleagues to convene a panel of physicians and other health care experts to advise women on the best practices for early detection of breast cancer. The forum was occasioned by recent recommendations of a federal task force. This task force challenged the value of current practices, including self-examination and yearly mammograms for women age 40-49 who have no risk factors. Our panel, however, disagreed. According to our experts, women should continue to practice self examination and should obtain yearly mammograms beginning at age 40.

Breast Density

For women with dense breast tissue, however, the mammogram may not reveal cancerous tissue. Further screening using ultrasound or MRI may be advised. I believe that this critical information must be disseminated to women through as many avenues as possible. That is why I continue to work with advocate Nancy Cappello, Ph.D., whose organization, Areyoudense?, has produced an informational brochure on the issue. This brochure will be included in state employee pay envelopes, and may appear in bills sent by Connecticut's electric utility companies.

EDUCATION FUNDING FOR NAUGATUCK FROM THE FEDERAL STIMULUS PACKAGE*

Improving Basic Programs A	\$1,867,674
Enhancing Education Through Technology	\$16,321
IDEA Part B [Special Education]	\$1,039,141
IDEA Federal Pre-School	\$41,170
TOTAL	\$2,964,306

**Estimates*

"Race to the Top" Federal Program

I recently met with Mayor Mezzo to discuss the availability of federal funds under the "Race to the Top" program, which challenges the nation to achieve the highest rate of college graduates in the world by 2020.